

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 16 and 20 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 8, 11, 12, and 17 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 8, 11-15, and 17-19 are now pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 11-15, and 17-19. By this Amendment, claims 8, 12, and 17 have been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 8, 12, and 17 should be in condition for allowance. Claims 11, 13-15, and 18-19 should also be in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence from claims 8, 12, and 17, respectively.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,472,092). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Since this Amendment After Final cancels all rejected claims and amends all of the remaining claims to be in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the allowance of the pending claims, and the passage of this application to issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated,

otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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